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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/559) on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). During the course of its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information to the Committee.

2. Section I of the report of the Secretary-General summarizes developments relating to MINURSO during the period as at 11 May 1994, that is, from the date of the last report on the financing of MINURSO. Among the developments was the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 48/250 B of 23 June 1994, in which the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to utilize $18.8 million gross from the unencumbered balance of the initial appropriation for the maintenance of MINURSO for the period from 1 April to 31 July 1994. In the same resolution, the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the maintenance of the Mission at a rate not to exceed $3.4 million per month for the period from 1 August to 30 September 1994.

3. With regard to the period after 30 September 1994, the Advisory Committee, in its letter to the Secretary-General dated 7 October 1994, concurred in the entering into commitments not to exceed $6.1 million gross for the period from 1 October to 30 November 1994 under the terms of paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 48/229 of 23 December 1993 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1994-1995.

4. The Advisory Committee notes that, in his report of 12 July 1994 to the Security Council on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/1994/819), the Secretary-General indicated his intention to recommend that the transitional

period should start on 1 October 1994, that the referendum should take place on 14 February 1995 and that the withdrawal of MINURSO personnel should then begin. In his report of 5 November 1994 (S/1994/1257), the Secretary-General noted, however, that it was clear that many months would still be required to make sufficient progress in the identification process to be close to determining a date for the referendum and a revised timetable for the steps still to be taken in the implementation of the settlement plan. That development, in the view of the Committee, may significantly affect resource requirements for the Mission in the coming period.

5. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Secretary-General was currently preparing a report to be submitted shortly to the Security Council with an updated timetable for the referendum. In the meantime, as stated in paragraph 6 of his report of 20 October 1994 (A/49/559), the cost estimates included therein reflect activities in pursuance of Security Council resolution 907 (1994) of 29 March 1994.

6. As stated in paragraph 7 of the report, $140,911,223 was apportioned among Member States, against which payments of $120,550,059 had been received as at 30 September 1994, leaving an outstanding balance of $20,361,164 due from the Member States. In that connection, the Advisory Committee reiterates its view outlined in paragraph 29 of its report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (A/48/906) that outstanding assessments, unless received in the coming months, will have a significant impact on cash flow and on the maintenance of the operation. This underlines the necessity of prompt payment of assessed contributions by Member States in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

7. A detailed description of voluntary contributions provided to MINURSO is contained in section IV (paras. 10-12) of the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/559). The Committee notes from paragraph 10 that during the period from 1 April to 30 September 1994 the Mission was provided with goods and services valued at $9.4 million for which no budgetary provision had been made. The Committee was informed that the cost estimates of $3 million for the maintenance of the Mission on a monthly basis for the period after 30 November 1994 also reflected requirements net of voluntary contributions.

8. In that connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that in paragraph 33 of its report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session (A/44/725), it had agreed with the Secretary-General that facilities such as office and residential accommodation, office furniture, vehicles or air transportation provided by Member States in whose countries United Nations peace-keeping operations were located, were not voluntary contributions per se, since there was an implicit obligation on the part of the State where the operation took place to facilitate its functioning. The Committee notes from table 2 of section IV, Voluntary contributions, that goods and services for which no budgetary provision had been made were provided to MINURSO during the period from 1 April to 30 September 1994 by Algeria, Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO. In that connection, the Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to look into the matter with a view to determining whether the provision of goods and services referred to in paragraph 10 of the report falls under the category of voluntary contributions.

9. Information on financial performance for the period from 1 January to 30 September 1994 is provided in paragraph 13 of the report and in its annexes I and II. The Committee notes that out of the unutilized balance of $3.3 million gross an amount of $2.4 million, or 72.7 per cent, relates to savings under civilian personnel costs resulting from the high vacancy rate in the period under review. Detailed information on savings of $2.4 million under civilian personnel costs is contained in paragraphs 4 to 9 of annex II to the report. The Committee points out that both the format of the presentation of financial performance and its content need to be improved substantially to make performance reporting more transparent and informative. For instance, paragraph 6 of annex II refers to the period from January to September 1994, while the table of that paragraph does not include data for the month of September; furthermore, instead of providing a satisfactory explanation of deviations from the approved budget, the report contains rather general statements, such as that savings "were due to non-utilization of the provision under the current contract" (annex II, para. 13), or that the additional requirements "are due to initial non-provision of funds for those purposes" (annex II, para. 16), and so on.

10. Section VIII of the report, Financial administration, contains a proposal that special arrangements as regards article IV of the Financial Regulations (similar to those contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 47/210 B of 14 September 1993 regarding UNPROFOR) be applied to MINURSO. The details of the proposal are outlined in paragraph 19 of the report. The Advisory Committee agrees to the Secretary-General's proposal.

11. As indicated in table 1 of section III, Status of the unencumbered balance of appropriations, the total expenditure for the period from the inception of the Mission to 30 September 1994 and commitment authority granted by the Advisory Committee for the period from 1 October to 30 November 1994 amounts to $145.7 million gross, which exceeds the appropriation of $143 million by $2.7 million. In paragraphs 8 and 22 (b) of his report, the Secretary-General proposes that an additional appropriation in the amount of $2,670,350 gross be approved by the General Assembly for the period ending 30 November 1994. As indicated in paragraph 8 of the report of the Secretary-General, "on the other hand, on a net basis, the additional commitment authority of $5,600,200 is still within the initial appropriation and there is no need for additional assessment at the present time".

12. Annexes III and IV to the report of the Secretary-General contain a summary statement of and supplementary information on the cost estimates for the maintenance of the Mission on a monthly basis during the period after 30 November 1994. In that connection, the Committee notes that the report of the Secretary-General does not indicate the time-frame for which the authorization of $3.2 million gross per month is being requested. The Committee believes that such a time-frame should have been indicated in the report.

13. The Committee notes from paragraph 15 of the report that the monthly cost estimates of $3.2 million gross are based on the actual strength of the Mission of 153 internationally and 63 locally recruited staff as at 1 October 1994, rather than on the authorized staffing table and that, should an increase in staff resources over the current number now on board be required in the

implementation of the MINURSO mandate, additional funding would be sought from the General Assembly.

14. The estimates reflected in annex III of the report show that the monthly cost of $3.2 million gross for the maintenance of MINURSO during the period after 30 November 1994 is slightly higher than the average amount of monthly commitment authorized by the Committee for the period from 1 October to 30 November 1994. Upon inquiry as to justification for the increase, the Committee was informed that in view of the fact that the voluntary provision of three aircraft had been discontinued, following the withdrawal of the Swiss Medical Unit, the Mission would have to resort to the commercial hiring of aircraft. Furthermore, the replacement of the Swiss Medical Unit, which was provided to the United Nations free of charge, by a medical unit from the Republic of Korea also resulted in additional requirements under the budget line, Standard troop cost reimbursement.

15. The Committee was informed, upon inquiry, that the report erroneously showed the negative estimate of $161,600 in the first column of annex III; the first and the second lines of the initial cost estimates under budget line 6 (a), Helicopter operations, should read $602,800 and $158,300, respectively; this correction has no impact on the monthly cost estimates.

16. With regard to the estimates for rations, the Committee was informed, on inquiry, that the requirements should have been based on an average cost of $9.50 per person per day, rather than on $11 as indicated in paragraph 10 of annex IV; this correction would result in a decrease of $9,100 in the monthly cost estimates of $3.2 million gross.

17. The Committee notes that no provision is made for reimbursement to Governments for contingent-owned equipment, while the performance report for the period from 1 January to 30 September 1994 shows that $2.7 million was expended under that budget line. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that in view of the recent deployment of the medical unit from the Republic of Korea, the value of the related contingent-owned equipment has not yet been determined and therefore no provision for the reimbursement for the equipment was made in the monthly cost estimates. The related provision will be included in future cost estimates.

18. The monthly cost estimates for the period after 30 November 1994, as reflected in annex III of the report, do not contain a provision for the acquisition of vehicles. Nevertheless, in the view of the Committee, the current fleet of 286 vehicles for 538 staff/personnel, which represents a ratio of 1 vehicle to less than every 2 people of the Mission, including military personnel and local staff, is rather excessive. The Committee recommends, therefore, that the Secretary-General review the current fleet of vehicles in the Mission with a view to reducing the number of vehicles. Furthermore, the fleet of vehicles should be justified in terms of the established standard ratios of vehicles to different categories of staff and personnel, and by the operational requirements of the Mission.

19. Taking into account its observations in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's request for an

additional appropriation of $2,670,350 gross for the operation of MINURSO for the period ending 30 November 1994. With regard to the period after 30 November 1994, that Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be authorized to enter into commitments for the maintenance of the Mission at a rate not to exceed $3.2 million gross per month.

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UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Larbi DJACTA (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "United Nations common system" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 18th, 20th, 21st, 23rd, 24th and 31st meetings, on 14, 17, 21, 23 and 28 November and on 9 December 1994. Comments made in the course of the Committee's discussion of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/49/SR.18, 20, 21, 23, 24 and 31).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 1994; 1/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on decisions of administrative tribunals (A/49/480);

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/49/30).

(c) Statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission (A/C.5/49/7);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a statement adopted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination at its second regular session of 1994 (A/C.5/49/10);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting comments by the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations (A/C.5/49/33).

4. At the 18th meeting, on 14 November, the Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission introduced the annual report of the Commission and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management introduced the report of the Secretary-General on decisions of administrative tribunals (see A/C.5/49/SR.18).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/49/L.7

5. At the 31st meeting, on 9 December, the representative of Austria introduced and orally amended a draft resolution entitled "United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission" (A/C.5/49/L.7), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.7, as orally amended, without a vote (see para. 9).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Russian Federation made a statement (see A/C.5/49/SR.31).

8. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Committee informed the Committee of the contents of a letter he had received from the President of the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations (see A/C.5/49/SR.31).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

9. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the twentieth annual report of the International Civil Service Commission 2/ and other related reports, 3/

Reaffirming its commitment to a single unified United Nations common system as the cornerstone for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system,

Mindful of the critical role exercised by the Commission in accordance with its statute in developing common personnel standards, methods and arrangements across the United Nations common system, which are essential for management reforms,

I

ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

Recalling section I of its resolution 46/191 A of 20 December 1991 and section I.A of its resolution 47/216 of 23 December 1992, in which it urged the governing bodies and the executive heads of all organizations of the common system to ensure that the International Civil Service Commission was invited in its own right to be represented at meetings where proposals pertaining to salaries, allowances, benefits and other conditions of employment were to be discussed,

1. Notes with regret in this regard that the International Labour Organization did not consult the International Civil Service Commission before putting forward a proposal on personal promotions;

2. Regrets also the recent decision of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which was not in line with the decision of the Commission, and calls upon all the concerned governing bodies to adhere to the obligations of their organizations towards the common system;

3. Reiterates its request to the executive heads of the organizations of the common system to consult with the Commission and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board prior to putting forward the proposals of their respective governing bodies relating to conditions of service, in order to avoid action inconsistent with the common system of salaries, allowances and other conditions of service, and to make every effort to enable representatives of the Commission to present the view of that body on such questions to any relevant intergovernmental bodies;

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/49/30).

3/ A/49/480, A/C.5/49/7, A/C.5/49/10 and A/C.5/49/33.

II

STAFF PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Recalling section II of its resolution 43/226 of 21 December 1988, section I.B of its resolution 47/216 and section I of its resolution 48/224 of 23 December 1993, in which it regretted the suspension of the participation of staff bodies in the work of the International Civil Service Commission,

Recalling also section II, paragraph 2, of its resolution 45/241 of 21 December 1990, in which it expressed satisfaction with the establishment of a more active dialogue between the Commission and representatives of organizations and of staff, section I, paragraph 5, of its resolution 46/191 A, in which it took note with appreciation of the improvements that had taken place in the functioning of the Commission, and section I of its resolution 48/224, in which it noted that the changes introduced in the working methods of the Commission had resulted in the full participation of the Coordinating Committee for International Staff Unions and Associations in the work of the Commission,

Noting that the framework for the participation of the representatives of the organizations and staff in the work of the Commission is provided under article 29, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Commission and elaborated further in its rules of procedure,

Noting also the information contained on this matter in chapter I.E of the report of the Commission, 2/

1. Notes the views expressed by the representatives of Member States in the Fifth Committee on this matter;

2. Notes with concern that the representatives of the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations have informed it of their intention to recommend suspending participation in the work of the International Civil Service Commission;

3. Notes further the concerns expressed by the Coordinating Committee for Independent Staff Unions and Associations in respect of the working methods of the Commission;

4. Endorses the decision of the Commission to consider, at its next session, all questions raised by the Coordinating Committee for Independent Staff Unions and Associations and the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations at the fortieth session of the Commission, and requests the Commission to report thereon to the General Assembly;

5. Requests the staff bodies, the organizations and the Commission to review with all urgency how the consultative process of the Commission can best be furthered and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

III

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHER CATEGORIES

A. Comparator

Recalling section VI of its resolution 46/191 A, in which it invited the International Civil Service Commission to analyse the potential consequences of the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act of 1990 on the pay levels of the current comparator, the federal civil service of the United States of America, and to provide full details of all the special pay systems which have been introduced by the comparator civil service,

Recalling also section II.C of its resolution 47/216, in which it requested the Commission to complete phase I of its study leading to the identification of the highest paid civil service and to study all aspects of the application of the Noblemaire principle with a view to ensuring the competitiveness of the United Nations common system,

Recalling further section II.G, paragraph 2, of its resolution 47/216, in which it decided to revert to the consideration of the conditions of service, including the question of representation allowances, of assistant secretaries-general and under-secretaries-general and equivalent levels at the earliest possible opportunity,

Acknowledging that the common system must be a competitive employer in order, inter alia, to equip it to make the necessary management reforms,

1. Notes with regret that the International Civil Service Commission has not yet completed the studies on all aspects of the application of the Noblemaire principle and all other related studies;

2. Requests the Commission to proceed with all urgency with its study of all aspects of the application of the Noblemaire principle and all other related studies which are outstanding and to submit final recommendations to the General Assembly at the earliest opportunity;

3. Takes note of the Commission's report in respect of developments pertaining to the comparator's Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act and the comparator's special pay systems;

4. Also takes note of the Commission's decision to proceed to a phase II study of the national civil services of Germany and Switzerland in the context of determining the highest paid national civil service;

B. Margin considerations

Recalling section IX of its resolution 46/191 A, in which it requested the International Civil Service Commission to include in its work programme a review of the differences between the United Nations and the United States net remuneration at individual grade levels,

Recalling also section II.G of its resolution 47/216, in which it invited the Commission to keep under review the structure of the salary scale at all levels of the Professional and higher categories, taking into account, inter alia, the overall level of the margin as established by the General Assembly and the imbalance between the margin levels for different Professional grade levels,

Recalling further section II.B, paragraph 3, of its resolution 48/224, wherein it considered that the Commission should address the imbalance in the United Nations/United States remuneration ratio in the context of overall margin considerations,

1. Takes note of the conclusions of the International Civil Service Commission set out in paragraph 171 of its report 2/ in respect of the further refinements to margin calculations;

2. Also takes note of the net remuneration margin of 113 for the calendar year 1994;

C. Base/floor salary scale

Recalling section I.H, paragraph 1, of its resolution 44/198 of 21 December 1989, in which it approved the establishment of a floor net salary level by reference to the corresponding base net salary levels of officials in comparable positions serving at the base city of the comparator civil service,

Recalling also section II.C, paragraph 2, of its resolution 48/224, in which it requested the International Civil Service Commission to review and, if necessary, recommend revised rates of staff assessment consequential upon changes in the base/floor salary scale,

Approves, with effect from 1 March 1995, the revised scale of gross and net salaries for staff in the Professional and higher categories contained in annex I to the present resolution and the consequential amendment to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations as reflected in annex II to the present resolution;

D. Dependency allowances

Recalling section II.F, paragraph 2, of its resolution 47/216, in which it noted that the International Civil Service Commission would review the level of dependency allowances every two years,

Noting the Commission's review of dependency allowances reflecting relevant changes in tax abatement and social legislation at the seven headquarters duty stations since 1991, as contained in paragraphs 182 to 192 of its report, 2/

1. Approves, with effect from 1 January 1995, an increase of 10.26 per cent in the levels of the children's and the secondary dependant's allowances;

2. Notes the updated list of hard currency duty stations for which the allowances are specified in local currency contained in annex III to the present resolution;

IV

GENERAL SERVICE AND OTHER LOCALLY RECRUITED CATEGORIES

A. General Service salary survey methodology

Recalling section III, paragraph 1, of its resolution 47/216, in which it endorsed the reaffirmation by the International Civil Service Commission of the Flemming principle as the basis for determining the conditions of service of the General Service and related categories,

Noting that the Commission intends to continue its preliminary study of the methodologies for the surveys of the best prevailing conditions of employment at headquarters and non-headquarters duty stations,

1. Requests the International Civil Service Commission to proceed with the current round of surveys at headquarters duty stations as planned on the basis of the current General Service salary survey methodology, and urges all parties concerned to participate in the surveys;

2. Endorses the decision of the Commission that a comprehensive review of the application of the methodology should be undertaken upon completion of the current round of surveys at headquarters duty stations;

3. Requests the Commission, in its review of the General Service salary survey methodology, to consult fully with all parties concerned, including the staff representatives;

B. National Professional Officers

Recalling paragraph 69 of its resolution 3176 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973, in which it invited the organizations of the United Nations system to invigorate the search for innovative and interdisciplinary approaches aiming at the removal of the causes of underdevelopment and at the strengthening of the economic and social structures and the cadres of trained personnel of developing countries for their own development,

Noting that, as a response, a number of organizations had employed National Professional Officers and that, in 1980, the International Civil Service Commission agreed to the employment of such staff under a defined set of conditions, 4/

Noting also that organizations were increasingly resorting to the employment of such staff,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the conclusions reached by the International Civil Service Commission in respect of the employment of National Professional Officers and the revision of the conditions laid down in 1980;

2. Agrees to the revised criteria for the employment of National Professional Officers outlined in annex VI to the report of the Commission; 2/

3. Takes note of the Commission's intention to review the use of National Professional Officers on a regular periodic basis and requests the Commission to report thereon to the General Assembly;

V

EDUCATION GRANT

Recalling section IV, paragraph 1, of its resolution 47/216, in which it endorsed the revised methodology for the determination of the education grant,

Approves increases in the maximum reimbursement levels in seven currency areas as well as other adjustments to the management of the reimbursement of expenses under the education grant, as recommended by the International Civil Service Commission in paragraph 273 of its report; 2/

VI

HAZARD PAY

Commending the dedication of increasing numbers of staff of the United Nations common system who are required to work in dangerous conditions,

1. Takes note of the decisions of the International Civil Service Commission in respect of hazard pay as contained in paragraphs 288 to 291 of its report; 2/

2. Requests the Commission to reconsider its decision to link hazard pay to the base/floor salary scale for internationally recruited staff and its decision on the level of hazard pay and to propose alternative approaches to hazard pay and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/35/30), para. 310.

VII

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Recalling section I.F of its resolution 44/198 and section VIII of resolution 46/191 A, in which it invited the Commission to pursue its review of merit systems and performance appraisal in the common system as a vehicle for enhancing productivity and cost-effectiveness,

Recalling also section VII of its resolution 47/216, in which it urged the International Civil Service Commission to give attention in its work programme to measures designed to promote sound personnel management in the international public service,

Recalling further section V, paragraph 2, of its resolution 48/224, in which it urged the Commission to devote further attention to personnel management issues,

1. Welcomes the review of performance management undertaken by the International Civil Service Commission as contained in chapter VII of its report and the elaboration of principles and guidelines for performance appraisal and management and for the recognition of different levels of performance outlined in annex VIII to its report; 2/

2. Reaffirms the key importance of performance appraisal and management to enhanced organizational effectiveness;

3. Takes note with interest of the conclusions and recommendations of the Commission in this regard and commends them to the organizations of the common system in the development of their policies and programmes in this area;

4. Urges the organizations of the common system that have not already done so to give high priority to the development of viable performance management programmes, including performance appraisal systems in the broader context of personnel reform;

VIII

SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT

Recalling the recommendation of the International Civil Service Commission in 1988, 5/ which it reaffirmed in 1992, 6/ that organizations that had not already done so should amend their staff rules to permit the employment of spouses,

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5/ Ibid., Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/43/30), para. 91 (d).

6/ Ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/47/30), para. 296 (h).

Encourages all organizations of the common system to allow spouses the opportunity to compete for positions within the organizations, bearing in mind the necessity to ensure that preference is not given by virtue of the relationship to a staff member;

IX

APPOINTMENTS OF LIMITED DURATION

Recalling its request to the International Civil Service Commission in June 1994 to provide views on the proposal by the United Nations to develop arrangements for contracts of limited duration,

Notes the preliminary conclusions of the International Civil Service Commission contained in paragraphs 366 and 367 of its report, 2/ and requests the Commission to report its findings on the arrangements for contracts of limited duration to the General Assembly upon completion of its study;

X

DECISIONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS

Recalling section VI, paragraph 7, of its resolution 48/224, in which it requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the executive heads of the organizations of the common system, to examine the feasibility of amending the statute of the International Civil Service Commission and/or the relationship agreements with a view to ensuring a coordinated response in all appeals involving the conditions of service of staff of the common system and introducing arrangements to enable the Commission to intervene in appeals before the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization involving decisions or recommendations of the Commission on any other common system issues,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on decisions of administrative tribunals; 7/

2. Requests the Secretary-General to consult the United Nations Administrative Tribunal with a view to introducing an amendment to its rules, reading:

> "If, in any proceeding, it appears that the judgement of the Tribunal may affect a rule, decision or scale of emoluments or contributions of the common system of staff administration, the Executive Secretary of the Tribunal shall promptly inform the Executive Secretary of the International Civil Service Commission and enquire whether the Commission wishes to participate in the proceeding. If the Commission indicates its wish to do so, it shall be provided with copies of all the pleadings and shall be permitted to comment thereon, and also to participate in any oral proceedings.";

7/ A/49/480.

3. Requests the Director-General of the International Labour Organization to consult its Administrative Tribunal with a view to introducing an amendment to its rules, reading:

"If, in any proceeding, it appears that the judgement of the Tribunal may affect a rule, decision or scale of emoluments or contributions of the common system of staff administration, the Registrar of the Tribunal shall promptly inform the Executive Secretary of the International Civil Service Commission and inquire whether the Commission wishes to participate in the proceeding. If the Commission indicates its wish to do so, it shall be provided with copies of all the pleadings and shall be permitted to comment thereon, and also to participate in any oral proceedings."

ANNEX I

Gross base salaries

PROPOSED BASE/FLOOR SALARY SCALE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHER CATEGORIES: ANNUAL GROSS SALARIES AND NET EQUIVALENTS AFTER APPLICATION OF STAFF ASSESSMENT a/

(United States dollars)

	Steps														
Level	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV
Under-Secretary-General															
USG Gross	145 236														
Net D	93 735														
Net S	84 232														
Assistant Secretary-General															
ASG Gross	131 617														
Net D	85 972														
Net S	77 763														
Director															
D-2 Gross	107 062	109 482	111 934	114 394	116 855	119 317									
Net D	71 946	73 349	74 752	76 154	77 558	78 961									
Net S	66 026	67 236	68 414	69 582	70 751	71 921									
Principal Officer															
D-1 Gross	94 299	96 371	98 442	100 510	102 581	104 653	106 724	108 795	110 880						
Net D	64 544	65 745	66 946	68 146	69 347	70 549	71 750	72 951	74 152						
Net S	59 645	60 680	61 716	62 750	63 786	64 821	65 857	66 893	67 913						
Senior Officer															
P-5 Gross	82 807	84 650	86 492	88 335	90 181	92 053	93 927	95 802	97 674	99 548	101 423	103 295	105 170		
Net D	57 806	58 893	59 981	61 068	62 155	63 241	64 328	65 415	66 501	67 588	68 675	69 761	70 848		
Net S	53 611	54 606	55 601	56 596	57 585	58 522	59 459	60 396	61 332	62 269	63 206	64 143	65 080		
First Officer															
P-4 Gross	67 706	69 475	71 240	73 005	74 774	76 565	78 362	80 159	81 955	83 751	85 546	87 346	89 141	90 954	92 782
Net D	48 824	49 885	50 944	52 003	53 064	54 123	55 183	56 244	57 304	58 363	59 422	60 484	61 543	62 603	63 664
Net S	45 413	46 378	47 342	48 306	49 271	50 240	51 210	52 181	53 151	54 120	55 090	56 062	57 031	57 972	58 886
Second Officer															
P-3 Gross	54 837	56 463	58 097	59 727	61 361	62 993	64 624	66 279	67 938	69 599	71 258	72 917	74 576	76 256	77 945
Net D	40 997	41 993	42 989	43 983	44 980	45 975	46 971	47 967	48 963	49 959	50 955	51 950	52 946	53 941	54 938
Net S	38 291	39 197	40 104	41 009	41 915	42 821	43 727	44 633	45 539	46 446	47 352	48 258	49 164	50 073	50 985
Associate Officer															
P-2 Gross	43 754	45 131	46 543	47 957	49 369	50 783	52 197	53 609	55 026	56 485	57 943	59 405			
Net D	33 990	34 882	35 772	36 663	37 553	38 443	39 334	40 224	41 116	42 006	42 895	43 787			
Net S	31 914	32 730	33 539	34 349	35 158	35 969	36 779	37 588	38 399	39 209	40 018	40 830			
Assistant Officer															
P-1 Gross	32 951	34 212	35 492	36 809	38 125	39 440	40 760	42 075	43 391	44 708					
Net D	26 907	27 764	28 620	29 476	30 331	31 186	32 044	32 899	33 754	34 610					
Net S	25 412	26 208	26 997	27 781	28 564	29 347	30 132	30 915	31 698	32 481					

D = Rate applicable to staff members with a dependent spouse or child.

S = Rate applicable to staff members with no dependent spouse or child.

a/ Excluding post adjustment amounts, if applicable.

/...

ANNEX II

Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations

Regulation 3.3

Replace the second table in paragraph (b) (i) with the following table:

Total assessable payments (United States dollars)	Staff assessment rates used in conjunction with gross base salaries	
	Staff member with a dependent spouse or a dependent child	Staff member with neither a dependent spouse nor a dependent child
First $15 000 per year	9.0	12.4
Next $ 5 000 per year	21.0	26.9
Next $ 5 000 per year	25.0	30.3
Next $ 5 000 per year	29.0	34.6
Next $ 5 000 per year	32.0	36.9
Next $10 000 per year	35.0	40.5
Next $10 000 per year	37.0	42.7
Next $10 000 per year	39.0	44.5
Next $10 000 per year	40.0	45.4
Next $15 000 per year	41.0	46.0
Next $20 000 per year	42.0	50.0
Remaining assessable payments	43.0	52.5

ANNEX III

Amounts of children's and secondary dependant's allowance

(Local currency)

Country	Currency	Children's allowance	Secondary dependant's allowance
Austria	Schilling	22 834	8 435
Belgium	Belgian franc	56 721	18 140
Denmark	Danish krone	10 661	3 082
France	French franc	8 195	2 719
French Guiana	French franc	8 195	2 179
Germany	Deutsche mark	3 278	1 176
Ireland	Irish pound	925	303
Japan	Yen	322 196	146 370
Luxembourg	Luxembourg franc	56 721	18 110
Monaco	French franc	8 195	2 719
Netherlands	Netherlands guilder	3 614	1 231
Switzerland	Swiss franc	2 718	1 211
United States of America and the rest of the world a/	United States dollar	1 400	500

a/ As a result of a review of currencies this will also include, as from 1 January 1995, Finland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Communauté financière africaine franc countries.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

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A/49/773
12 December 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 115

UNITED NATIONS PENSION SYSTEM

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Larbi DJACTA (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "United Nations pension system" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 17th, 21st, 23rd, 24th and 31st meetings, on 11, 21, 23 and 28 November and 9 December 1994. Comments made in the course of the Committee's discussion of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/49/SR.17, 21, 23, 24 and 31).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board for 1994; 1/

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/49/576);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (A/C.5/49/3);

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 9 (A/49/9).

(d) Statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/49/7) on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 1994. 2/

4. At the 17th meeting, on 11 November, the Chairman of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board introduced the report of the Board and the representative of the Secretary-General for the investments of the Fund introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the investments of the Fund (see A/C.5/49/SR.17).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/49/L.6

5. At the 31st meeting, on 9 December, the representative of Portugal introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations pension system" (A/C.5/49/L.6), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations. The representative of Chile made a statement.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.6 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations pension system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/242 of 21 December 1990, 46/192 of 20 December 1991, 47/203 of 22 December 1992 and 48/224 and 48/225 of 23 December 1993,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board for 1994 to the General Assembly and to the member organizations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, 3/ chapter III.A, of the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 1994, 4/ the report of

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2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 30 (A/49/30).

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 9 (A/49/9).

4/ Ibid., Supplement No. 30 (A/49/30).

the Secretary-General on the investments of the Fund 5/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 6/

I

ACTUARIAL MATTERS

Recalling section II of its resolution 47/203 and section II of its resolution 48/225,

1. Welcomes with appreciation the changes made by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board in the presentation of the results of the valuation of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund as at 31 December 1993, in response to requests made by the Panel of External Auditors and pursuant to discussions with the Board of Auditors, so as to provide (a) the valuation results in dollar terms, as well as in the form of percentages of pensionable remuneration, (b) additional disclosures regarding the values of the assets and liabilities, and (c) statements by the Consulting Actuary and the Committee of Actuaries regarding the sufficiency of the assets of the Fund to meet current and projected liabilities;

2. Takes note of the increase in the actuarial imbalance from 0.57 to 1.49 per cent of pensionable remuneration, reflected in the valuation of the Fund as at 31 December 1993, of the elements that contributed to the increase in the imbalance, including in particular the increase in the life expectancy of pensioners, and of the observations on the valuation results by the Consulting Actuary, the Committee of Actuaries and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board;

3. Takes note in particular of the opinions provided by the Consulting Actuary and the Committee of Actuaries, as reproduced in annexes IV and V, respectively, to the report of the Board, 3/ that there was no requirement, as at 31 December 1993, for deficiency payments under article 26 of the Regulations of the Fund, 7/ and that the current contribution rate of 23.7 per cent of pensionable remuneration could be maintained for funding purposes, pending a review at the time of the next valuation, as at 31 December 1995;

4. Takes note of the review by the Board of the interest rate and mortality table used to determine lump-sum commutations, and of its decisions, under article 11 of the Regulations of the Fund, (a) to retain the current 6.5 per cent interest rate, which would be reviewed again by the Standing Committee of the Board in 1995, and (b) to request the Committee of Actuaries to develop a revised unisex mortality table, based on the longevity assumptions used in the actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 31 December 1993, for the

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5/ A/C.5/49/3.

6/ A/49/576.

7/ JSPB/G.4/Rev.14.

approval of the Standing Committee, and to be implemented in determining lump-sum commutations as from 1 July 1995;

5. Approves, with effect from 1 July 1995, an increase in the maximum number of years of creditable contributory service, so that the years of contributory service in excess of 35 and performed as from 1 July 1995 shall be creditable at an accumulation rate of 1 per cent per year, subject to a maximum total accumulation rate of 70 per cent, and amends accordingly, with effect from 1 July 1995, article 28 of the Regulations of the Fund, as set out in annex I to the present resolution;

6. Concurs with the transfer agreements with the Asian Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, approved by the Board under article 13 of the Regulations of the Fund, with a view to securing continuity of pension rights between the Fund and each of the banks, as set out in annex VII to the report of the Board; 3/

II

PENSIONABLE REMUNERATION

Recalling section II of its resolution 45/242, section III of its resolution 46/192 and sections IV and VI of its resolution 47/203,

Approves, with effect from 1 April 1995, amendments to article 54 of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, as set out in annex I to the present resolution, to include the latest scale of pensionable remuneration for staff in the Professional and higher categories, to define the pensionable remuneration of ungraded officials and of participants in the United Nations Field Service category and to include references to, and place limitations on, the extent to which merit and/or longevity step increments are deemed to be pensionable;

III

PENSION ADJUSTMENT SYSTEM

Recalling section IV of its resolution 46/192, section V of its resolution 47/203 and section I of its resolution 48/225,

1. Takes note of the reviews carried out by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, described in section VI of its report, 3/ on various aspects of the pension adjustment system and of its intention to pursue additional studies at its next regular session in 1996;

2. Takes note also of the results of the first monitoring by the Board of the costs of the longer-term modification of the pension adjustment system that entered into effect on 1 April 1992, based on the actual costs during the period from 1 April 1992 to 31 March 1994, which indicated a long-term cost estimate of 0.26 per cent of pensionable remuneration, as against the earlier estimate of 0.30 per cent, and of the intention of the Board to review the matter further at its next regular session on the basis of the second assessment of the actual

costs, in the context of the valuation of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund as at 31 December 1995;

3. Approves, with effect from 1 July 1995, the reduction of the "120 per cent cap" provision under the pension adjustment system, which is described in paragraph 166 of the report of the Board, 3/ to 110 per cent for participants separating from service on or after 1 July 1995, and the consequential changes in the pension adjustment system, as set out in annex II to the present resolution;

4. Approves, with effect from 1 July 1995, the application to staff in the General Service and related categories of the longer-term modification of the pension adjustment system that entered into effect on 1 April 1992, the consequential revisions in the schedule of cost-of-living differential factors and the schedule for special adjustments of small pensions under section E of the pension adjustment system, and the consequential changes in the pension adjustment system, as set out in annex II to the present resolution;

5. Takes note of the decision taken by both the Board and the International Civil Service Commission 3/, 4/ to defer until 1996 the submission to the General Assembly of recommendations on possible changes in the special index for pensioners, in the context of the comprehensive review of the pensionable remuneration and consequent pensions of the various categories of staff;

IV

ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR GENETIC ENGINEERING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

Decides to admit the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, in accordance with article 3 of the Regulations of the Fund, with effect from 1 January 1996, subject to the adoption by the Centre, before that date, of staff regulations, rules and salary scales that conform to the common system of salaries and other conditions of service;

V

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Approves additional expenses of $390,200 (net) for the biennium 1994-1995, chargeable directly to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, for the administration of the Fund;

VI

OTHER MATTERS

1. Requests the member organizations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and the Registrar of the Administrative Tribunal of the International

Labour Organization, in pursuance of section VI, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 48/224, to inform the Fund of any pending cases that have direct or indirect implications for the Fund, to ensure that the interests of the Fund are adequately represented;

2. Notes with satisfaction that the Board of Auditors has indicated, inter alia, that the presentation of the financial statements of the Fund for the biennium 1992-1993 is consistent with a number of the United Nations System Accounting Standards, and requests that the changes recommended by the Board of Auditors in this regard be implemented at the earliest opportunity so as to bring the statements fully into line with those Standards;

3. Takes note of the action taken by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board regarding the recommendation of the Board of Auditors on the provision of an internal audit function, and the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon; 6/

4. Requests the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to report to the General Assembly, in the context of the revised estimates for the biennium 1994-1995 and the estimates for the biennium 1996-1997, on the arrangements made for internal audits of the Fund and the costs thereof;

5. Requests the Board to continue to review the monitoring and control procedures for payments from the Fund in order to strengthen the verification process, including those related to the payment of benefits to widows and widowers, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

6. Takes note of the observations of the Board in section VII of its report 3/ on the continuing representations made by former participants affected by the application of the Transfer Agreements with the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, and of the steps taken thus far by the Board, through its Secretary, to enter into consultations with the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, as well as with the appropriate national authorities, with a view to ascertaining the extent to which the problems that had arisen with regard to the interpretation and application of the Agreements could be resolved;

7. Notes that the Fund has transferred to the Social Security Fund of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the actuarial value of the pension rights accrued by individual former participants, as required under the Agreements;

8. Welcomes the establishment of a working group composed of high-ranking officials representing relevant ministries and agencies of the Russian Federation, as well as of representatives of former Fund participants, with a mandate to address the problems mentioned above;

9. Calls upon all parties concerned to continue their efforts to resolve the problems that have arisen in respect of the interpretation and application

of the three Agreements, in a manner consistent with the letter and intent of the terms of the Agreements;

10. Takes note of the decision of the Board not to propose changes at the present time in the size and composition of the Board and of its Standing Committee, but to keep the subject under review and to submit a further report on the matter to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, in 1998;

11. Also takes note of the observations of the Board on attendance at Board sessions and on the frequency of, and attendance at, meetings of the Standing Committee, as well as the changes made in the rules of procedure of the Fund with respect to attendance at meetings of the Standing Committee;

12. Further takes note of the other matters dealt with in the report of the Board;

VII

INVESTMENTS OF THE FUND

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, 5/ and of the observations made by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board in its report 3/ on the investments and custodial arrangements for the assets of the Fund, and on the membership and size of the Investments Committee;

2. Welcomes any proposal on how the long-term performance of the investments of the Fund might be enhanced and reviewed in the future, taking into account the interests of the participants, the importance of the amounts involved and the established criteria of safety, profitability, liquidity and convertibility, and, in this respect, invites the Secretary-General to review the arrangements for the provision of institutional advice;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to present in future reports to the General Assembly on the investments of the Fund a fuller analysis of the performance of those investments and their significant components, including, where applicable, means of comparing performance with relevant benchmarks and other pension funds;

4. Notes with appreciation that the new custodial arrangements are expected, inter alia, to produce cost savings, and requests the Secretary-General to keep under review the costs of those arrangements, bearing in mind the custodial costs of other pension funds;

5. Notes with satisfaction that several Member States that had not previously granted tax exemptions for income from the investments of the Fund have decided to grant such exemptions, and appeals to those Member States that do not grant such exemptions to make all possible efforts to do so as soon as possible.

ANNEX I

Amendments to the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Article 28

Retirement benefit

Replace paragraph (b) (iii) with the following:

"(b) (iii) The next 25 years of his contributory service, by 2 per cent of his final average remuneration; and"

Add a new paragraph (b) (iv) reading:

"(b) (iv) The years of his contributory service in excess of 35 and performed as from 1 July 1995, by 1 per cent of his final average remuneration, subject to a maximum total accumulation rate of 70 per cent."

Add a new paragraph (c) (iii) reading:

"(c) (iii) The years of his contributory service in excess of 35 and performed as from 1 July 1995, by 1 per cent of his final average remuneration, subject to a maximum total accumulation rate of 70 per cent."

Article 54

Pensionable remuneration

Replace paragraph (b) with the following:

"(b) In the case of participants in the Professional and higher categories, the scale of pensionable remuneration effective 1 November 1994 shall be as set out in appendix B hereto. It shall be adjusted on the same date as the net remuneration amounts of officials in the Professional and higher categories in New York are adjusted. Such adjustment shall be by a uniform percentage equal to the weighted average percentage variation in the net remuneration amounts, as determined by the International Civil Service Commission."

Add the following text:

"(c) (i) In the case of participants who are appointed or elected as ungraded officials on or after 1 April 1995, their pensionable remuneration shall be established by the competent legislative organ which determines their other conditions of service, in accordance with the methodology recommended by the International

Civil Service Commission and endorsed by the General Assembly, and shall be subsequently adjusted in accordance with the procedure in paragraph (b) above;

"(ii) In the case of participants who are ungraded officials on 31 March 1995, their pensionable remuneration shall be maintained, without adjustment, until surpassed by the level of pensionable remuneration derived from application of the methodology referred to in subparagraph (i) above;

"(d) In the case of participants in the United Nations Field Service category, the scale of pensionable remuneration effective 1 November 1994 shall be as set out in appendix C hereto, and shall be subsequently adjusted in accordance with the procedure in paragraph (b) above;

"(e) No step increments beyond the top step of the gross pensionable salary scale or the scale of pensionable remuneration established according to the methodology approved by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the International Civil Service Commission shall be recognized for participants entering or re-entering the Fund on or after 1 January 1994. Nevertheless, any step increments awarded in conformity with the provisions of the appropriate staff regulations or rules of a member organization to a staff member in service in that organization before 1 January 1994 shall be recognized by the Fund for pension contribution and benefit calculation purposes."

Replace appendix B with the following:

APPENDIX B

PENSIONABLE REMUNERATION FOR STAFF IN THE PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHER CATEGORIES

(United States dollars)

(Effective 1 November 1994)

	Steps														
Level	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV
Under-Secretary-General															
USG	156 115														
Assistant Secretary-General															
ASG	144 445														
Director															
D-2	120 837	123 738	126 471	129 310	132 212	135 180									
Principal Officer															
D-1	106 539	108 954	111 419	113 834	116 306	118 758	121 131	123 554	126 022						
Senior Officer															
P-5	94 577	96 744	98 819	100 934	103 126	105 156	107 321	109 819	112 055	114 152	116 289	118 465	120 681		
First Officer															
P-4	77 753	79 814	81 862	83 814	85 936	87 980	90 056	92 359	94 472	96 712	98 207	100 322	102 483	104 690	106 946
Second Officer															
P-3	63 710	65 688	67 600	69 424	71 306	73 163	75 143	77 511	79 063	81 154	82 688	84 513	86 402	88 333	90 308
Associate Officer															
P-2	51 492	53 137	54 695	56 366	58 034	59 556	61 214	63 160	65 001	66 665	67 956	69 274			
Assistant Officer															
P-1	40 378	41 764	42 992	44 243	45 624	46 861	48 344	50 277	51 908	53 397					

/...

Add the following new appendix C to the Regulations of the Fund:

APPENDIX C

PENSIONABLE REMUNERATION FOR STAFF IN THE UNITED NATIONS FIELD SERVICE CATEGORY

(United States dollars)

(Effective 1 November 1994)

	Steps														
Level	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV
FS-7	74 691	76 772	78 853	80 936	83 016	85 099	87 179	89 262	91 341	93 424	95 377	97 585			
FS-6	61 605	62 984	64 365	65 745	67 126	68 506	69 886	71 266	72 646	74 028	75 407	76 788			
FS-5	48 702	49 971	51 240	52 509	53 780	55 048	56 317	57 586	58 857	60 124	61 394	62 663	63 933		
FS-4	39 941	41 051	42 163	43 272	44 384	45 494	46 607	47 715	48 828	49 938	51 050	52 159	53 271	54 381	55 493
FS-3	32 285	33 337	34 416	35 483	36 550	37 615	38 707	39 828	40 934	42 055	43 162	44 322	45 483	46 644	47 804
FS-2	28 329	29 247	30 164	31 084	32 000	32 930	33 889	34 835	35 794	36 750	38 667	39 624			
FS-1	25 143	25 846	26 545	27 250	28 060	28 882	29 691	30 515	31 325	32 135					

ANNEX II

Changes in the pension adjustment system

D. COST-OF-LIVING DIFFERENTIAL FACTORS

Replace paragraph 6 (b) (v) with the following text:

"(v) The applicable cost-of-living differential factor is finally derived from the following tables, the result being interpolated, when necessary, between the factors applicable to the next higher and the next lower ratio in the applicable table:

"Benefits based on separation or death in service before 1 July 1995 and other benefits derived therefrom

Ratio of midpoint net salaries	Cost-of-living differential factor (percentage)
Less than 122	0
122	3
128	7
134	12
141	17
148	22
155	28
162	34
171	40
180 or more	46

"Benefits based on separation or death in service on or after 1 July 1995 and other benefits derived therefrom

Ratio of midpoint net salaries	Cost-of-living differential factor (percentage)
Less than 105	0
105	3
110	8
116	14
122	19
128	25
134	31
141	38
148	45
155	52
163	60
171	68
180	76
189	85
198	94
208 or more	104"

E. SPECIAL ADJUSTMENT FOR SMALL PENSIONS

Replace paragraph 7 with the following text:

"7. Whenever the standard annual rate of a retirement or disability benefit under the Fund's Regulations, before any commutation, is less than the highest dollar amount in the applicable table below, the benefit shall be subject to a special adjustment as follows:

"Annual amount of pension (United States dollars)	Special adjustment (percentage)
Separations before 1 April 1993	
4 000	0
3 800	3
3 600	7
3 400	12
3 200	17
3 000	22
2 800	28
2 600	34
2 400	40
2 200 or less	46
Separations on or after 1 April 1993 up until 1 July 1995	
6 500	0
6 250	3
6 000	6
5 750	9
5 500	12
5 250	15
5 000	18
4 750	21
4 500	25
4 250	28
4 000	31
3 750	34
3 500	37
3 250	40
3 000	43
2 750 or less	46

"Annual amount of pension (United States dollars)	Special adjustment (percentage)
Separations on or after 1 July 1995	
6 500	0
6 250	3
6 000	7
5 750	12
5 500	17
5 250	22
5 000	28
4 750	34
4 500	40
4 250	52
4 000	60
3 750	68
3 500	76
3 250	85
3 000	94
2 750 or less	104"

I. PAYMENT OF THE BENEFIT

Replace paragraph 23 with the following text:

"23. Where a beneficiary resides in a country other than the United States, the determination of the amount of the periodic benefit payable in a given month is as follows:

"The dollar amount, as initially determined under subparagraph 5 (a) above and then adjusted under section H above, is converted to the local currency equivalent by using the exchange rate in effect for the month preceding the calendar quarter of that payment. The resultant amount is compared with the local currency amount, as initially determined under subparagraph 5 (b) above and then adjusted under section H above. Except as provided in paragraph 25 below, the beneficiary is entitled, until the next quarter, to the greater of the local currency amount or the local currency equivalent of the dollar amount, subject to a maximum of: (a) 120 per cent of the local currency amount with respect to benefits payable on account of separation or death in service before 1 July 1995 and other benefits derived therefrom; (b) 110 per cent of the local currency amount with respect to benefits payable on account of separation or death in service on or after 1 July 1995 and other benefits derived therefrom."

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Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 39
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 9 December 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter dated 8 December 1994, from my Prime Minister, Dr. Haris Silajdžić, addressed to you (see annex).

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 8 December 1994 from the Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the Secretary-General

I turn to you with the request that the United Nations undertake, as soon as possible, all necessary measures to fulfil the Agreements on the Sarajevo Airport and the road connecting the airport and the city of Sarajevo.

The road is now under the complete control of the Serbian aggressor forces, although according to the Agreement, it should be under the authority of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

At the airport, UNPROFOR employed about 100 locally recruited Serbs, who have the airport in full control. According to our information, they are also armed, so that there is a real danger that they could take over the airport.

It is indispensable that UNPROFOR re-establish full control of the airport and the road connecting the airport and the city of Sarajevo, and limit the airport local staff to controllers only.

Until the road is under complete UNPROFOR control, it will be necessary to use the airport to Dobrinja and Dobrinja to Hrasnica roads for humanitarian purposes. Although a new Security Council resolution should not be required to implement the above steps, we would ask for your support if, in fact, one is proposed on the matter.

The measures we insist upon are indispensable, for by breaking the Agreements on the Sarajevo Airport and the road connecting the airport and the city of Sarajevo, the survival of more than 300,000 citizens, who are now under complete blockade, is threatened.

UNPROFOR has the means available to take the necessary steps and we expect prompt action.

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12 December 1994

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 39
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA
AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 11 December 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter dated 9 December 1994 from my Prime Minister to you.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 9 December 1994 from the Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the Secretary-General

At its special session of 6 December 1994, the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina dealt with the humanitarian situation in Bihac, Sarajevo, and Gorazde, which was said to be very difficult, and it was decided to turn to the United Nations and ask for the following:

1. The consistent implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993).

2. Implementation of the NATO Council decision of 9 February 1994 concerning the Sarajevo exclusion zone.

3. Adoption of a Security Council resolution on the opening of a Pazaric-Hrasnica-Sarajevo humanitarian route, which would be protected by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

4. Start of air drop operations for Bihac, Srebrenica and Zepa, and the airlift operation for Sarajevo as soon as possible.

5. Securing of the functioning of Sarajevo Airport and the road from the airport to Sarajevo, in accordance with the Airport Agreement.

6. Delivery of food for western Bosnia through the Karlovac-Bihac direction.

7. Take-over by UNPROFOR of control of gas installations around Sarajevo, and help in bringing sufficient quantities of butane gas for humanitarian purposes.

The Government holds that the most indispensable aid to Bihac can also be delivered by helicopters of UNPROFOR and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

We would appreciate it if you would make every effort to implement the above.

(Signed) Haris SILAJDZIC

UNITED NATIONS **A**

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Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 154

UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990s

Letter dated 12 December 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of African States, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter from the President of the African Development Bank (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 154.

(Signed) El-Hadj Aboubacar DIONE
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

[Original: English]

Letter dated 12 December 1994 from the President of the African Development Bank addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have been briefed by our Director of Development Research and Policy Department, Mr. D. G. Rwegasira, about the discussions he had with the African Expert Group at the United Nations on 9 December 1994 on the question of the possible establishment of a diversification fund for Africa's commodities. He has also told me about the subsequent briefing he had with you on the matter.

As I had indicated earlier in my letter of 16 February 1994 to United Nations Under-Secretary-General Mr. Nitin Desai, the African Development Bank agrees with the observation made in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) report of October 1993, prepared at the request of the Secretary-General, that there is a resource gap in Africa for the preparation of diversification projects that are attractive to investors. I, therefore, in my letter welcomed the proposal to establish the diversification fund to this effect. The establishment of a diversification fund, however, would, along with the proposed national diversification councils, provide the focal point for enhancing diversification efforts in Africa. On this basis, and taking into account related operational considerations, I indicated that the Bank would, in principle, be willing to consider administering the fund as recommended by the FAO report.

There are, of course, a number of alternative ways of putting together the proposed US$ 50-75 million initial contributions to the fund. And those alternative ways would in turn imply different operational and procedural modalities. But these are matters of detail at this stage, which should not stand in the way of the broader objective. Similarly, for our part in the Bank, we would need to have minimum firm indications of the possible contributions to the fund, and to go through our internal consultations required by the relevant organs of our institution for administering such a fund.

What is also important to stress is the point I made earlier, relating to complementary diversification efforts already existing within the African Development Bank and elsewhere, and therefore the implied need for new and additional efforts and resources deriving from the current initiative on this front from the United Nations. These additional resources could be obtained from various sources, including special contributions to existing sources of finance.

The African Development Bank stands ready to embrace positive initiatives that would enhance the development prospects of the African continent. At the present stage of development in many of our countries, diversification of

products, markets and technologies is crucial. We are, therefore, looking forward to such imaginative approaches from the United Nations, particularly in the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

(Signed) Babacar NDIAYE

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Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 77

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Letter dated 12 December 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Government of Portugal has decided to contribute $25,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

In addition to this voluntary contribution, my Government has also decided to contribute a further $15,000 to assist in the transfer of the headquarters of UNRWA to Gaza.

I would kindly request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Assembly under agenda item 77.

(Signed) Pedro CATARINO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

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Agenda item 132 (a)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

Support account for peace-keeping operations

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peace-keeping operations (A/49/717).

2. The Advisory Committee's previous report, contained in document A/48/955 of 24 June 1994 provides, in paragraphs 2-9, detailed background information relating to the support account for peace-keeping operations.

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that by its resolution 48/226 C of 29 July 1994, the General Assembly, inter alia, endorsed the observations and recommendations contained in the Advisory Committee's report (A/48/955), subject to the provisions of its resolution. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session pursuant to the recommendations contained in paragraph 21 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/48/955). In that paragraph the Advisory Committee had requested the Secretary-General to clarify, in a comprehensive manner, the issues raised in connection with the rationale, scope and funding of backstopping of peace-keeping operations, taking into account, inter alia, the comments of the Committee reflected in its report (A/48/955).

4. The report of the Secretary-General (A/49/717) attempts to provide further clarification on the criteria for deciding which support activities should be funded from the regular budget and which from the support account, the extent to which the regular budget is already providing support and the threshold for establishing core posts to be funded from the regular budget.

5. In paragraphs 6 to 11 of document A/49/717, the Secretary-General discusses the question of backstopping of peace-keeping operations. In the view of the Advisory Committee, the analysis of the criteria for deciding on how support activities are to be financed should be considered thoroughly in all its aspects, including various options to be considered. The Committee intends to revert to this matter early at its February 1995 session, at which time it will submit its recommendations on criteria and other outstanding matters. In this connection, the Committee notes the statement of the Secretary-General in paragraph 36 of his report that "the total number of posts required for effectively backstopping peace-keeping operations was considered to be about 630" and the subsequent discussion in paragraphs 37 and 38 of the report. The Committee requests that it be provided with a clarification of these considerations in terms of actual workload requirements. The Secretary-General is also requested to provide information on implementation and compliance with the requests contained in General Assembly resolution 48/226 C.

6. The Advisory Committee recalls that as at 1 May 1993 there were 194 posts financed from the support account in addition to the equivalent of 50 additional posts provided under general temporary assistance. Under the terms of resolutions 48/226 A of 23 December 1993 and 48/226 B of 5 April 1994, the General Assembly authorized an additional 148 posts. As shown in annex I to the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/48/470/Add.1, the total number of authorized posts for the period up to 30 June 1994 is 342. To cover the costs of these posts as well as provisions for general temporary assistance, overtime, travel and common services, the Assembly authorized an amount of $16,376,250 for the six-month period up to 30 June 1994.

7. With regard to the period from 1 July to 31 December 1994, the Secretary-General, in paragraph 36 of document A/48/470/Add.1, requested a total of 92 additional posts, of which 60 posts were requested for the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, 30 for the Department of Administration and Management and 1 for the Office of Legal Affairs. Under the terms of resolution 48/226 C, the General Assembly authorized, inter alia, 65 of the 92 posts requested by the Secretary-General, to be funded from the provision of $1 million under general temporary assistance, thus bringing the total number of posts financed from the support account to 407 during the period from 1 July to 31 December 1994. The distribution of these posts by offices, as well as the distribution of 65 posts funded under general temporary assistance, is indicated in tables A and B respectively of annex I to the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/717).

8. With regard to non-post requirements, the General Assembly authorized for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1994 the resources for general temporary assistance ($167,700), overtime ($80,000), travel on official business ($140,000) and specialized equipment for the Situation Centre ($592,000), as recommended in paragraph 59 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/48/955), and the resources for training ($480,000), as requested in paragraph 62 of annex IV to the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/470/Add.1).

9. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 38 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/717) that the Secretary-General is requesting 24 additional posts for the calendar year 1995 which, together with the proposed regularization of the 65 posts currently funded under general temporary

assistance (see A/49/717, para. 35), would bring the total of posts financed from the support account to 431. Out of the requested 24 additional posts, as shown in annex II to the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/717), 12 posts are requested for the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, 9 for the Department of Administration and Management and 3 for the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

10. In addition to the requested 24 additional posts, as indicated in paragraph 40 of the report of the Secretary-General (see A/49/717/Corr.1, item 1), $483,500 is requested for general temporary assistance, $210,000 for overtime, $120,000 for travel and $504,900 for training. Detailed information on these non-post requirements is provided in paragraphs 23 to 25 of annex IV of document A/49/717.

11. The Advisory Committee welcomes the detailed presentation in the report of the Secretary-General of the training activities of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations to be undertaken in 1995.

12. The Advisory Committee notes that the General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 48/226 C, took note of the Committee's request that the Secretary-General submit a report on the various aspects related to the secondment to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, at no cost to the United Nations, of military and civilian personnel by a number of Member States, and the Assembly's request that the report should address the question of providing reimbursement of expenses to those personnel. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that such a report was under preparation and would be submitted to the Assembly during its forty-ninth session.

13. In view of its observations in paragraph 5 above, and owing to the limited time available for the consideration of this report, the Advisory Committee recommends that at this stage the General Assembly authorize for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1995 the funding of $14,105,900 for the continuation of 407 posts and the approval of the position of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General. 1/ In this connection, the Committee recalls that in its report contained in document A/48/955, it had recommended approval of 60 additional posts and general temporary assistance for 2 additional posts; and that the Assembly, in its resolution 48/226 C, had approved, inter alia, up to $1 million for general temporary assistance for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1994, and continued funding of the position of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General and funding of three additional posts (over and above the total of 62 additional posts recommended by the Committee). As indicated in paragraph 34 of his report (A/49/717), the Secretary-General has used the amount of $1 million to cover the costs of 65 additional posts for six months. It will be for the Assembly to decide whether to continue the existing arrangement under which 65 out of 407 posts are funded from general temporary assistance, or to approve the previous recommendation of the Advisory Committee to establish 60 additional posts (with the remaining 5 to be funded from general temporary assistance).

14. Owing to the lack of detailed information on budget performance for the support account in 1994 in the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/717), the Advisory Committee was not in a position to review in detail obligations and

disbursements for 1994, or the resource requirements for non-post objects of expenditure for the year 1995. The Committee trusts that the financial performance for the support account for 1994 will be provided to the Committee during its February 1995 session. In the meantime, and pending its detailed review in February 1995, the Committee recommends approval of non-posts resources for 1995 on the basis of three-month requirements, as follows: $163,900 for general temporary assistance (including $86,000 for six-month funding of the position of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General), $52,500 for overtime, $30,000 for travel on official business and $132,400 for training. The Advisory Committee will revert to the additional requests of the Secretary-General, referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10 above, early in its February 1995 session, with a view to making recommendations to the General Assembly at its resumed forty-ninth session.

Notes

1/ See resolutions 48/226 A-C.

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY COORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Larbi DJACTA (Algeria)

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly decided to include in the agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item at its 31st meeting, on 9 December 1994. Comments and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/49/SR.31).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the statistical report by the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the budgetary and financial situation of organizations of the United Nations system (A/49/588).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (see para. 5).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

5. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

The General Assembly takes note of the statistical report by the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the budgetary and financial situation of organizations of the United Nations system. 1/

1/ A/49/588.

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RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

Note verbale of 12 December 1994 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations has the honour, on behalf of the Central American countries, to address this note verbale to the President of the General Assembly in connection with the consideration of agenda item 43 entitled "Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields" at the morning meeting of the plenary General Assembly on 5 December 1994.

Please be informed that for reasons beyond our control it was not possible to make a statement on the item on behalf of the Central American countries. It is respectfully requested, therefore, that you issue the attached statement as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 43 in order that the position of our region may be formally recorded.

ANNEX

Statement of the delegation of El Salvador to the United Nations on behalf of the Central American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama

1. I am pleased to make this statement on agenda item 43 entitled "Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields" on behalf of the Central American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

2. The Central American countries share the belief that the founding purpose and ongoing work of our Organization is to make the aspirations of peoples into realities and realize fundamental principles and objectives for the improvement of the welfare of mankind both with regard to international peace and security and in the promotion of economic and social development, respect for human rights, and strengthening of friendly relations and cooperation among States. The United Nations thus became a coordinating centre for the achievement of these purposes, but unfortunately it was impeded in its work by the ideological and political differences which characterized international relations in the period since the Second World War and were felt within the Organization.

3. The ending of East-West rivalry seemed to offer new and broader opportunities and generate expectations of change in the international order, especially in the long-standing critical situation of the developing countries, as a result of better and greater understanding of world problems, of the interdependence of nations, of the process of globalization, of shared responsibility in the search for solutions, of the need to strengthen multilateralism, and of the historical significance of the role of the United Nations in this new era, supposedly one of action to consolidate international cooperation and solidarity.

4. It seemed that in this new international situation the role of the United Nations could acquire a new dimension and renewed energy and that the Organization would be able to achieve greater understanding by means of consultation among Member States in the adoption of measures and mechanisms which would respond successfully to the old and new challenges facing the international community, especially the serious economic and social problems of large numbers of people in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. There can be no doubt that the Organization's mandate, in different circumstances and situations more difficult and complex than existed at the time of its founding, needed internal institutional reform as a means of adapting and preparing it to work more effectively in an international order in which political, economic and social problems proliferated, with the consequent assignment of greater responsibilities to the United Nations, which is now required, justifiably or not, to meet the expectations of Member States by catering to the most diverse needs.

6. This necessitated the introduction of reforms which would lead to greater coordination in the structure of the United Nations and in its representation at the country level, in order to secure greater efficiency and coherence in operational activities for development. With the ending of the cold war it was thought that the economic and social sectors must adapt to the new international realities. However, to make progress in the restructuring of the system was to be no easy task because of the divergent interests of Member States - not just the differences between East and West but also the divergencies in North-South relations - and because of the existence of a vast number of international bodies and organs, with their own decision-making and reporting procedures, answerable both to the United Nations and to other authorities. As the Secretary-General said on 20 January 1990 in his address to Parliamentarians for Global Action, each such body "has its own council accountable to different ministries and interests in the capitals of Member States". This situation requires a change of outlook which must become deeply entrenched so that Governments become fully convinced that it is essential to generate the necessary political will to permit and facilitate the process of change in the Organization.

7. We, the Central American countries, understand the importance of and the need for restructuring, particularly in the light of the Security Council summit held in January 1991. Although 1985 saw the formation of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency and the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, whose recommendations were adopted by the General Assembly in 1986, we believe that the Security Council summit really marks the beginning of a process of change in the Organization, for that was when new political frontiers were opened, mainly as a result of the commitment undertaken by Security Council members to make the Council more efficient in dealing with major world issues in the political sphere and those relating to economic, social and development objectives. In this connection, we support the initiative for restructuring and revitalizing in the economic and social field and view it as part of a larger process which includes the revitalization of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

8. Our support for restructuring and revitalization in the economic and social field is based on recognized principles, cited by the Group of 77, which we believe it is important to reaffirm: that the mandate of the United Nations should be discharged in accordance with its Charter, with recognition for the universal character of the Organization; democratization of the decision-making process; respect for the principle of non-intervention; avoidance of politicization and selectivity; greater plurality of ideas and diversity of approaches and strategies; respect for the principle of equitable geographical representation and the equality of States.

9. The Central American countries, as developing countries, hope that the simplification and rationalization of the processes and procedures of the United Nations system, in particular those concerning the interrelated spheres of programming and implementation, decentralization and evaluation, will prove successful, particularly if, as a result, the United Nations system is capable of providing substantial and effective support to the national plans, priorities and objectives of developing countries, and, even more important, if its implementation mechanisms become more viable and more efficient.

10. Central America has been a region in profound crisis for the past 14 years and is now in the process of consolidating peace and promoting development, particularly since some countries have ended armed conflicts whose deep economic, political, social and ecological scars have made reconstruction necessary. We therefore believe that it is vital to establish effective coordination between the United Nations system and the international financial institutions in the Bretton Woods system in order to harmonize priority programmes for the consolidation of peace and development with adjustment and economic stabilization policies, thereby ensuring that those policies do not become obstacles to achieving a firm and lasting peace.

11. As the Secretary-General stated in his report (A/49/558), the Central American countries believe that it is too early to make a final assessment of the impact of General Assembly resolution 48/162 on the governing bodies of the United Nations development funds and programmes. It is therefore of the utmost importance to request the Secretary-General, within a reasonable time-period not to exceed the period agreed upon in the negotiations for the new composition of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), to reassess the reforms introduced, and, in particular, the impact they have had on solving the problems of the developing world, and their contribution to that process. That will help to determine the system's strong points or to indicate where further remedial action must be taken in order to tackle or address the root causes of threats to peace and social stability, which are also the causes of both domestic and international tension and conflict.

12. With regard to the restructuring of the Executive Boards of the agencies mentioned above, we believe that it is important to stress that the new structure does not correspond to a principle which, if respected, would guarantee greater participation and democratization. Our subregion is not represented, mainly because we have always encountered opposition to the establishment of a mechanism for enforcing the principle of equitable geographical distribution and regional rotation, whereby, through our direct participation we would be able to defend and promote the interests of our countries.

13. Lastly, we continue to believe that the United Nations system is an essential mechanism for coordinating the efforts of the international community to rise to global challenges and address the most pressing problems confronting humanity. We must stress, however, that it is still an intergovernmental entity and, that, accordingly, the success of its mandate depends on the political will and conviction of its Member States to resolve world problems. We understand that it is a difficult and complex task to reconcile interests in an organization that no longer has 51 Member States, as it did in 1945, but rather 184. If, however, the United Nations is to serve humanity efficiently, Member States must change their traditional perceptions and provide all the political and financial support necessary to ensure that the Organization will have sufficient resources to fulfil its mandate. Concerning financial aspects, we feel constrained to point out that the greatest responsibility lies with the

industrialized countries, since the developing world cannot be made to bear a heavier burden than it does already, particularly as regards the solution of serious socio-economic problems in order to eliminate underdevelopment.

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Forty-ninth session
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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) (A/49/590). The Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.

2. By its resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964, the Security Council recommended that the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) be established; UNFICYP became operational on 27 March 1964. Since then, the Security Council has extended the duration of the mandate of UNFICYP, mainly for six-month periods. By its resolution 927 (1994) of 15 June 1994, the Council extended the mandate of UNFICYP for a period of six and one half months from 16 June to 31 December 1994.

3. By its resolution 48/244 of 5 April 1994, the General Assembly decided to appropriate a total amount of $10,500,000 gross ($10,072,000 net) for the six-month period from 16 December 1993 to 15 June 1994. The Assembly also authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the maintenance of the Force up to the amount of 3.8 million dollars gross (3,726,284 dollars net) per month for the period from 16 June to 15 December 1994, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 15 June 1994.

4. Since the period beginning 16 June 1993, the costs of UNFICYP which are not covered by voluntary contributions have been assessed on Member States. Voluntary contributions equal to one third of the annual cost of UNFICYP are being made on a continuing basis by the Government of Cyprus, while the Government of Greece has pledged an annual contribution of $6.5 million. The

General Assembly, in its resolution 47/236 of 14 September 1993, had requested the Secretary-General to establish a special account for UNFICYP for the period beginning 16 June 1993 and to maintain it separately from the account established for UNFICYP prior to 16 June 1993.

5. Paragraphs 6 to 16 of the report of the Secretary-General contain information, inter alia, on the status of assessed and voluntary contributions, the financial administration of the separate accounts for UNFICYP, the status of reimbursement to troop-contributing States, the financial performance reports for the periods from 16 December 1993 to 15 June 1994 and from 16 June to 31 December 1994, as well as the cost estimate for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1995 and 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNFICYP beyond 31 December 1994. With regard to the status of assessed contributions for the period from 16 June 1993, the Advisory Committee was informed that the balance of assessments due as at 30 November 1994 was $8,724,288.

6. In paragraph 18 of its resolution 48/244, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the voluntary nature of the financing of the Force prior to 16 June 1993, to report, in the context of the next budget performance report, on the status of the Special Account and to include in that report possible solutions on how to improve reimbursements of the amounts owed to troop-contributing States for the period prior to 16 June 1993. Paragraphs 17 to 25 of the report of the Secretary-General address the subject of the status of the Special Account established prior to 16 June 1993. Table 2 and paragraph 24 of the report reflect the position as at 30 June 1994, showing a cash balance of $3 million, unrecorded obligations amounting to some $202 million and outstanding pledged voluntary contributions of $6.4 million. The Advisory Committee was informed that the cash balance in the account as at 30 November 1994 was $3.4 million.

7. In this connection, in paragraph 29 (d) of the report, the Secretary-General has proposed that the unencumbered balance of $1,349,600 (see para. 8 below) for the period from 16 December 1993 to 15 June 1994 and the projected unencumbered balance of $190,900 (see para. 12 below) for the period from 16 June to 31 December 1994 be used for meeting the expenses of the Force for the period prior to 16 June 1993 or for the crediting of those amounts against the assessment on Member States for future mandate periods. In accordance with regulation 4.3 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the Advisory Committee points out that unencumbered balances should be returned to Member States.

Financial performance report for the period from 16 December 1993 to 15 June 1994

8. As indicated in paragraph 9 of the report of the Secretary-General, the total resources made available to UNFICYP for the period 16 December 1993 to 15 June 1994 amounted to $23,000,000 gross ($10.5 million appropriations and $12.5 million voluntary contributions), while expenditures amounted to $21,577,600 gross, as set out in annex I to the report. Thus, the unencumbered balance for the period amounts to $1,422,400 gross ($1,349,600 net) with

interest and miscellaneous income during the period totalling $28,825 and $1,475, respectively.

9. Supplementary information on the subject is contained in annex II to the report. The Advisory Committee notes that the major items that account for savings are in respect of military personnel costs comprising standard troop cost reimbursement, daily allowance, emplacement, rotation and repatriation of troops and related costs. These savings were the result of the fact that the actual number of troops on board was lower than the authorized strength and that the actual number of rotations and emplacement of troops was also lower than anticipated, as a result of the arrival of a contingent late into the mandate period.

10. As shown in annex XII to the report, an average vacancy rate of 17 per cent for international staff during the period resulted in savings of $175,300. However, as indicated in annex II, line item 10 (a) (ii), some of the savings were offset by an overexpenditure in the amount of $292,000 for contractual services, owing to payment of separation costs, including indemnity payments (see A/48/907, para. 15).

11. As indicated in paragraphs 26 to 28 of the report of the Secretary-General and as reflected in annexes I and II of the report, savings were achieved as a result of the implementation of recommendations of the Advisory Committee with respect to the methodology for calculating the emoluments of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, as well as the hiring of helicopters (see A/48/907, paras. 16 and 17).

Financial performance report for the period from 16 June to 31 December 1994

12. As indicated in paragraph 11 of the report, total resources made available to UNFICYP for the six-month period from 16 June to 15 December 1994 amounted to $22,800,000 gross ($10,850,000 voluntary contributions and $11,950,000 against commitment authority given to the Secretary-General). Expenditures for the six-and-one-half-month period from 16 June to 31 December 1994 are projected at $22,550,000 gross, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $250,000 gross.

13. Information on expenditure and savings for the period is given in annexes III and IV of the report. The Advisory Committee appreciates that a true performance report for the period 16 June to 31 December 1994 cannot be provided at this point. The Committee was informed that, for the most part, the expenditures and savings reflected for the period are only estimates. The Advisory Committee notes that some of the projected overexpenditure is the result of the two-week extension of the mandate, for which no budgetary provision was made, while the savings are mainly the result of the vacancies in international personnel and locally contracted personnel.

Cost estimate for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1995

14. The Secretary-General estimates that, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNFICYP beyond 31 December 1994, the cost of maintaining UNFICYP for the mandate period of six months from 1 January to 30 June 1995

would be $22,113,000 gross ($21,678,000 net), taking into account pledged voluntary contributions of $10,600,000.

15. As indicated in paragraph 2 of annex VI to the report, the cost estimate provides for 1,230 military personnel consisting of 1,110 infantry and 120 logistic support personnel. In addition, provision has been made for 12 military observers and 35 civilian police. However, the Committee was informed that as of 1 January 1995 there was a possibility that the 12 military observer posts may not be occupied; consequently there would be a reduction of $76,700, including the cost of rations ($12,900), in the total estimates.

16. The Advisory Committee notes that the estimate for rations for the period from 16 June to 31 December 1994 as indicated in annex III of the report of the Secretary-General is $1,051,000. For the period from 1 January to 30 June 1995, the estimate as shown in annex VI to the report is $1,377,200 for rations for the same number of personnel. This is the result of the fact that, as indicated in annex VI, the estimate has been calculated at a rate of $5.93 per person per day as opposed to the previously used rate of $4.50 per person per day. On inquiry as to the increase, the Advisory Committee was informed that the rations being provided by the British Forces at the rate of $4.50 per day would be discontinued after 31 January 1995, and it will, therefore, be necessary to obtain those supplies from commercial sources.

17. With regard to costs for international staff, the Advisory Committee notes that the estimate of $1,102,300 provides for the salaries and common staff costs of 42 international staff. The Advisory Committee understands that this estimate does not take into account a vacancy factor, although experience in the previous mandate periods has shown that not all of the posts have been filled. The Advisory Committee was informed, for example, that of the 42 international posts, only 37 have been occupied during the period from 16 June to 31 December 1994. Consequently, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of $55,100 in the estimates for this purpose, on the basis of a 5 per cent vacancy rate.

18. As indicated in annex VI, line item 10, the estimate of $3,967,300 for contractual services provides for 318 locally employed personnel recruited on a contractual basis through the United Kingdom Command Secretariat. However, the Committee was informed that no vacancy factor had been taken into account for budgeting purposes for this category of personnel, although of the 318 posts only 305 have been filled during the mandate period from 16 June to 31 December 1994. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends a reduction of $79,300 in the estimates for this item on the basis of a 2 per cent vacancy rate.

19. The Committee notes that the adjustment in the number of posts from 41 to 42 is the result of the inclusion of the post of the Special Representative in this category instead of under temporary assistance, as identified in the previous budget submission. The Committee concurs with the proposal to replace one post at the Assistant Secretary-General level with a D-2 level post (annex VI, line item 2 (b)(i)).

20. Taking into account its observations and recommendations in paragraphs 16, 18 and 19 above, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the cost of UNFICYP should not exceed $21,916,600 gross for the period 1 January to 30 June 1995, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNFICYP beyond 31 December 1994.

Cost estimates beyond 30 June 1995

21. As indicated, these estimates are based on the cost parameters provided in annex VI for the period 1 January to 30 June 1995. The Advisory Committee notes that with regard to contractual services, as indicated in annex VII of the document, provision is made for payment of salaries of 318 locally employed civilians, which include a 4 per cent increase in salaries over the previous period owing to a cost of living allowance plus an additional bonus equivalent to one month's salary given at the end of the year ($7,413,400).

22. As indicated in paragraph 14 of the report, the Secretary-General estimates that with regard to the 12-month period after 30 June 1995, the costs of UNFICYP would be $43,637,400 gross ($42,767,400 net), taking into account the voluntary contributions that would be received from the Governments of Cyprus and Greece. The Advisory Committee notes that the figure for the 12-month period after 30 June 1995 represents a reduction from the estimates for the previous period. The Advisory Committee was informed that this was the result of the fact that no purchase of vehicles ($130,000) has been envisaged during the period and certain items of office furniture ($38,400) and accommodation equipment ($163,100) would not be necessary. In view of the general observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee in the paragraphs above, and specifically in paragraph 16 above, and bearing in mind the recommendations of the Advisory Committee with regard to peace-keeping budget cycles in its report on administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations (A/49/664 and Add.1), the Advisory Committee recommends an appropriation at this time of $43,472,300 gross ($43,059,000 net) for the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996, subject to the renewal of the mandate by the Security Council. However, the Committee requests that a financial performance report for the period up to 31 December 1994 be submitted to it by April 1995. It would be the intention of the Advisory Committee to review this performance report at its spring 1995 session and, on that basis, to recommend changes to the level of appropriations, if necessary.

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UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR NAMIBIA: SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR NAMIBIAN STUDENTS

Final report on the United Nations Fund for Namibia: report of the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Fund for Namibia was established by General Assembly resolution 2679 (XXV) of 9 December 1970 in order to provide comprehensive material assistance to the Namibian people during their struggle for independence.

2. The United Nations Council for Namibia was appointed as trustee of the Fund for Namibia, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3112 (XXVIII) of 12 December 1973.

3. Following Namibia's independence in March 1990, the General Assembly decided in its resolution 44/243 of 11 September 1990 that the United Nations Council for Namibia, having fulfilled the important mandate entrusted to it by the Assembly in its resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967 relating to the Territory, was dissolved.

4. According to the terms of that resolution, the General Assembly decided that the Fund for Namibia should continue to operate in order to ensure the orderly completion of all programmes and activities then financed from it. The Trust Committee for the Fund for Namibia was subsequently established to serve as trustee of the Fund until its dissolution. The composition and guidelines of the Trust Committee were patterned on those of the Committee on the Fund for Namibia.

5. The Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia is composed of representatives of Australia, Finland, India, Nigeria, Romania, Senegal, Turkey, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zambia. The Chairman of the Committee is the Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations. The Vice-Chairman, the representative of Venezuela, also acts as Rapporteur.

6. In its resolution 44/243 B, the General Assembly decided that the United Nations Fund for Namibia should continue to operate in order to ensure the orderly completion of all programmes and activities it currently funds and that a final report in that regard should be submitted to the General Assembly at an appropriate time.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR NAMIBIA DURING THE PERIOD 1991-1994

7. Activities under the United Nations Fund for Namibia during the period from 1991 through 1994 have been financed through two separate accounts, namely, the General Account and the Nationhood Programme Account. The two accounts provide financial support for the education and training of Namibians who were awarded scholarships by the Fund prior to the independence of Namibia in March 1990. The support provided is for individual scholarships and group training projects. The Fund also takes up the costs for the repatriation of fellows upon graduation. Activities of the Fund are undertaken in consultation with the Government of Namibia.

A. The General Account

8. The General Account has been used to fund the extension of scholarship awards, social and medical assistance to sponsored students and the repatriation of scholarship holders upon graduation.

9. In January 1991, there were 80 Namibian students holding scholarship awards under the General Account (see A/C.5/46/10, para. 7). In January 1994, only one individual scholarship holder remained. At its tenth meeting, on 28 February 1994, the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia approved the 1994 allocation of $18,500 for his scholarship programme and $1,000 for emergency medical assistance. In addition, $39,000 is needed in order to enable the student to complete his studies in December 1996 and $3,500 for his repatriation, which makes an estimated total of $52,000 for 1994-1996. It is recommended that the amount of $52,000 be approved to enable the student to complete his studies. It is further recommended that the approved funds be transferred to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, which is already now handling the day-to-day administrative affairs of the student.

B. The Nationhood Programme Account

10. In 1991 there were 14 ongoing projects under the Nationhood Programme Account. In January 1994, three projects that needed additional funding remained active. At its tenth meeting, on 28 February 1994, the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia approved the 1994 allocation of $50,000 for three scholarships in the field of mineral development under project NAM/79/001. The students thus sponsored are scheduled to complete their studies in December 1994. At the same meeting, the Trust Committee approved the 1994 allocation of $10,000 for project NAM/91/003, Support for Nationhood Programme Assistance Activity. It also approved in principle a special provision to cover additional costs for the third project, NAM/86/005, Vocational Training Centre for Namibians. The amount required is $170,000, to refund the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicative planning figure for Namibia, which was advanced by UNDP to cover the deficit of project NAM/86/005, executed by the International Labour Organization (ILO). It is recommended that, with the transfer of that amount, the Nationhood Programme account be closed.

C. The United Nations Institute for Namibia Account

11. The activities of the United Nations Institute for Namibia were discontinued in 1990, but the account was not closed. It is recommended that it be closed along with the other two accounts of the Fund for Namibia.

III. FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR NAMIBIA AS AT 31 OCTOBER 1994

12. The total balance available in the United Nations Fund for Namibia as at 31 October 1994 was $4,829,420, consisting of $3,891,271 in the Nationhood Programme Account, $871,220 in the General Account and $66,929 in the United Nations Institute for Namibia Account.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

13. It is recommended, in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 above, that the following amounts be approved for expenditure: $52,000 for one student to complete his studies, and $170,000 to the UNDP indicative planning figure for Namibia to cover the completed activities under the project.

14. It is recommended that the $52,000 be transferred to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa within the Department for Development Support and Management Services for administration until the student at Gallaudet University completes his studies in 1996.

15. It is recommended that the United Nations Fund for Namibia (Nationhood Programme, General and United Nations Institute for Namibia Accounts) be closed when the United Nations closes the 1994 accounts and that the available balance of funds be transferred to the Government of Namibia to be used for education that is in keeping with the original purpose of the use of the funds under the United Nations Fund for Namibia.

16. It is recommended that the Trust Committee be dissolved.

17. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

United Nations Fund for Namibia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967, by which it established the United Nations Council for South West Africa as the legal Administering Authority for the Territory until independence, 1/

Recalling also its resolution 2679 (XXV) of 9 December 1970, by which it established the United Nations Fund for Namibia and its resolution 3112 (XXVIII) of 12 December 1973, by which it appointed the United Nations Council for Namibia trustee of the United Nations Fund for Namibia,

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1/ By its resolution 2372 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, the General Assembly proclaimed that South West Africa should thenceforth be known as "Namibia" and decided that the United Nations Council for South West Africa should be called "United Nations Council for Namibia".

Recalling also its resolution S-18/1 of 23 April 1990, by which it admitted the Republic of Namibia to membership in the United Nations,

Recalling further its resolution 44/243 A of 11 September 1990, in which it decided that the United Nations Council for Namibia, having fulfilled the important mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 2248 (S-V) relating to the Territory, was to be dissolved, and in which it requested the Secretary-General immediately to arrange, in consultation with the Government of Namibia, to coordinate the transfer to the Government of Namibia of the programmes, activities and assets of the United Nations Council for Namibia, including archival collections, consisting of, inter alia, major resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on the question of Namibia and other relevant documents and official correspondence, as well as in particular, those relating to the implementation of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia 2/ and to the accession to international conventions and representation of Namibia in specialized agencies of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations,

Recalling also its resolution 44/243 B, of 11 September 1990, in which it decided that the United Nations Fund for Namibia should continue to operate in order to ensure the orderly completion of all programmes and activities currently financed from it and as set forth in annex II of the resolution and that a report in that respect should be made to the General Assembly at an appropriate time, and also decided that the United Nations Institute for Namibia, having fulfilled its mandate to provide substantive support in its areas of competence in the struggle for freedom of the Namibians and the establishment of an independent Namibia and in view of the critical financial difficulties it was experiencing, should cease its operations on 30 September 1990,

1. Takes note of the report of the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia; 3/

2. Decides that the one student remaining under the United Nations Fund for Namibia shall be transferred for administration purposes with the necessary funds until completion of his programme in 1996 to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, administered by the Department for Development Support and Management Services;

3. Decides also that, since the activities of the United Nations Fund for Namibia financed under the three accounts, Nationhood Programme Account, General Account and United Nations Institute for Namibia Account, have been completed, the three accounts of the Fund shall be closed and the assets transferred to the Government of Namibia to be utilized for the purpose for which they were given, namely, the education of Namibians;

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 24 (A/35/24), vol. I, annex II.

3/ See A/49/782.

4. Decides further that the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia, having completed its mandate, is hereby dissolved.

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CONCLUSION OF EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO ASSURE NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES AGAINST THE USE OR THREAT OF USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Letter dated 12 December 1994 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the statement of the Chinese Government on the security assurance to Ukraine issued on 4 December 1994 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would make arrangements to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, under agenda item 60.

(Signed) LI Zhaoxing
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: Chinese]

Statement of the Chinese Government on the security assurance to Ukraine issued on 4 December 1994

The Chinese Government welcomes the decision of Ukraine to destroy all nuclear weapons on its territory, and commends the approval by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on 16 November of Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State.

China fully understands the desire of Ukraine for security assurance. The Chinese Government has always maintained that under no circumstances will China use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones. This principled position also applies to Ukraine. The Chinese Government urges all other nuclear-weapon States to undertake the same commitment, so as to enhance the security of all non-nuclear-weapon States, including Ukraine.

The Chinese Government has constantly opposed the practice of exerting political, economic or other pressure in international relations. It maintains that disputes and differences should be settled peacefully through consultations on an equal footing. Abiding by the spirit of the Sino-Ukrainian joint communiqué of 4 January 1992 on the establishment of diplomatic relations, the Sino-Ukrainian joint communiqué of 31 October 1992 and the Sino-Ukrainian joint statement of 6 September 1994, China recognizes and respects the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and stands ready to further develop friendly and cooperative Sino-Ukraine relations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT; UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Letter dated 13 December 1994 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the General Assembly

As you are aware, in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A of 3 November 1980, the Assembly decided that all proposals relating to the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the Assembly should be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences when administrative implications were being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules and procedure. Accordingly, on 8 December 1994 I transmitted a letter to all members of the Committee on Conferences regarding four draft resolutions requiring exceptions to General Assembly resolution 40/243 that have meanwhile been adopted by the Second Committee - A/C.2/49/L.27 (superseded by draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.61); A/C.2/49/L.30; A/C.2/49/L.32 (superseded by draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.65); and A/C.2/49/L.36 (superseded by draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.68).

With regard to the proposal contained in draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.27, the Committee was informed that, as the headquarters of the substantive secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) is in Nairobi, the convening of the third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee in New York would require an exception to the arrangements established

by resolution 40/243. Such an exception was granted to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

Regarding the proposal contained in draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.30, the Committee was informed that, as the headquarters of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, is in Geneva, the convening of a two-week session in Nairobi would require an exception to the arrangements established by resolution 40/243. Such an exception was granted to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions.

As to the proposal contained in draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.32, the Committee was informed that a statement of programme budget implications had been issued and was available in document A/C.2/49/L.55. As indicated in that statement, the headquarters of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is in Geneva, therefore the convening in New York of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s would require an exception to the arrangements established by resolution 40/243. Moreover, under paragraph 6 of its resolution 40/243, the General Assembly reaffirmed its instruction to all its subsidiary organs, inter alia, to complete their reports for the following session of the Assembly no later than 1 September. Under paragraph 7, the Assembly decided that no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly may meet at Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly. The convening of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting would thus require two further exceptions to the arrangements established by resolution 40/243.

Concerning the proposal contained in draft resolution A/C.49/L.36, the Committee was informed that, as the headquarters of UNCTAD is in Geneva, the convening in New York of the meeting of governmental experts of island developing countries, donor countries and development and trade-related institutions would require an exception to the arrangements established by resolution 40/243.

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 of resolution 35/10 A, the Committee on Conferences is required to advise the General Assembly on granting a departure from section I, paragraphs 4, 6 and 7, as appropriate, of General Assembly resolution 40/243. I am thus transmitting to you the Committee's recommendations.

The Committee was of the view that, as a general rule, taking into account the additional burden on the Organization that exceptions frequently entail, compliance with resolution 40/243 should be enforced. However, in view of past practice with regard to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, the Committee on Conferences recommends to the General Assembly that it should grant an exception to section I, paragraph 4, of resolution 40/243, thereby authorizing the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human

Settlements (Habitat II) and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to meet away from their established headquarters.

However, the Committee on Conferences recommends to the Assembly that it should not grant an exception to section I, paragraphs 4, 6 and 7, of resolution 40/243 and recommends that the UNCTAD High-level Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, be convened at the established headquarters of UNCTAD.

Lastly, regarding draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.36, while the Committee was of the view that an exception to section I, paragraph 4, of resolution 40/243 should not be granted in the case of the meeting of governmental experts of island developing countries, donor countries and development and trade-related institutions, under the provisions of paragraph 7 of the revised draft resolution (A/C.2/49/L.68), such an exception is no longer necessary.

Maria ROTHEISER
Chairman
Committee on Conferences